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ABSTRACT

This biography for young readers recounts in 10 chapters, the life of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and focuses on his life as a civil rights litigator who played a key role in the integration of education in the United States. Marshall's family history; boyhood and schooling in Baltimore (Maryland) and New York City; decision to attend a small all-black college, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania; experiences at Lincoln University; marriage in his junior year; college major in pre-dentistry; and decision in his senior year to go on to law school at Howard University Law School in the District of Columbia, where he had early experiences working for law professors on civil rights cases, are discussed. The following topics are highlighted: (1) Marshall's work as director-counsel for the Legal Defense and Education Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; (2) his legal work for blacks during World War II; (3) his efforts under discouraging conditions in the South to challenge and change laws that kept black people "separate but equal," primarily in the area of education; (4) his work on the landmark civil rights case, Brown v Board of Education; (5) his appointment by President Johnson as the first black solicitor general; (6) his role in the Civil Rights Movement; (7) the establishment of the Howard Law School; and (8) his work on the Supreme Court since October 2, 1967, when he was sworn in as the first black U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Contains 50 references. (JB)

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